



CASA of Pinal County

Positive Action, Powerful Results

Spring/Summer 2020

CASA Celebrates Volunteer Appreciation Week!

Dear Advocates -

CASA of Pinal County had a great reception planned for April 4th but the COVID-19 had different plans for us all. To say the last 8 weeks have been difficult is an understatement for CASA, but like all of you—we have taken the challenge and caught it in mid air!

We may not have been able to see you in person to give you kudos for your dedication and commitment, but we did our best to be creative so you knew we were thinking of you, from the letters and certificates to the Proclamation that the Pinal County Board of Supervisors adopted “Week of April 19-25, 2020 as CASA of Pinal County Volunteer Appreciation Week”.

But wait, there was more! With all 8 of us being in different locations as we work from home—we took our technological skills to a new level and made video clips. I was then able to put them all together (thanks to my son Justin!) to create a message to you all. I certainly hope you have seen it by now. It is on our Pinal County Juvenile Court webpage, the CASA Facebook page and was sent to you individually by Roseanna with the weekly updates.

From our Director Denise Smith and Division Manager John Fuery to those of us lucky enough to work with each of you in some way, we truly appreciate you. This is hard work. It is emotional work. Any one that tries to say they can turn it off at the end of the day is wrong. We know that because, even as staff, this is not just a job. These are children. One at a time, needing attention to be safe and happy.



In the months ahead, I hope you will stay with us and move forward on your cases. It is more important than ever as we try to figure out what the new “normal” will be. And if you know someone who might be a good fit for CASA, send them our way.

Until we can see you in person—stay healthy and safe.

Donna

Donna McBride, Program Supervisor

DCS Staff Praise CASA Advocates

CASA staff and advocates must work diligently with many different agencies on behalf of our child victims. How do we know we are doing what is right, what is fair, what is in the best interest of the child? These are questions we ask ourselves every day with so many cases coming into dependency on a weekly basis. It is always extra special when you get a quick note from someone that recognizes the work of our volunteers. An act of kindness like this truly does make the hundreds of hours our volunteers “work” matter.

*“I would like to give special thanks to CASA volunteer, **Paula Gibson**. She is an amazing asset to the CASA program and has provided a supportive role to me in providing permanency and advocating for many children on my caseload. I have had the pleasure of working with her on 5 of my cases, some of them very challenging and she has done an excellent job. I really appreciate her hard work and dedication to these children.”*

*“I would like to thank **Victoria Obergfoll**, CASA volunteer. She was recently assigned to one of my cases and has done amazing at jumping in and gathering as much information as possible. She was able to attend the last minute CFT that was scheduled and a last minute notification for an FCRB, due to when she was assigned, and was able to provide useful information even though not being on the case for very long. She has also attended the child’s medical appointments with foster mom and has assisted in the language barrier with foster mom to provide me as accurate information as possible.”*



*Kristi Kamp, DCS Specialist III
Arizona Department of Child Safety*

Saying Good-Bye To Roseanna

It is never easy to lose a member of our team but we sadly announce Roseanna will be leaving us in a few weeks.



Her husband Kevin recently retired from Mesa Police Department after 25 years of service. Kevin was offered a wonderful opportunity in Washington state which means the family will be moving sometime in June.

Roseanna has been with CASA for a year and during that time she has done an incredible job with our outreach and recruitment efforts. We wish her and the family success in their new adventure.

Thank you Roseanna!

This-n-That!



Director Denise Smith speaks to advocates during our March 6th Spring Training.

Division Manager John Fuery and Program Administrator Donna McBride show off the new CASA Information Display at Pinal County Superior Courthouse in Florence.



We found a big resemblance to Roseanna's son Hunter to the little boy in our CASA marketing material.

Can anyone else see the resemblance!?

You have to give them A+ effort for trying! Donna and Amanda made their own masks to show their skills at staying safe while in the office.

We love our advocates!



A Thought to go with your morning coffee . . .

Charles Plumb was a US navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb "I packed your parachute." The man replied

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked."

Plumb assured him, "It sure did, if your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about the man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back; and bell bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said, "Good morning, how are you?" or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor." Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute and his spiritual parachute. He called in all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them or give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes!

I received this story via email from a CASA who left the program to move out of state. I believe he sent this to me to remind me that we are all in this world together and we need to make sure we recognize who packs our parachute. As CASA advocates Thank you for packing a parachute for your CASA children.

Provided by Coordinator Pam Burke

